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ABSTRACT

This book contains 16 papers presented at a conference on the state of America's public schools. Phi Delta Kappa, the Institute for Educational Leadership, and the Educational Excellence Network sponsored the conference held in Washington, D.C., on February 4-5, 1993. The authors of the papers were asked to comment on what is right and what is wrong with the public schools, and to offer a vision for the future. Following the introduction by Jack Kosoy, the 16 chapters in part 1 include: (1) "Strengths and Weaknesses of American Education" (Michael W. Kirst); (2) "American Education: The Good, the Bad, and the Task" (Harold Hodgkinson); (3) "American Schools: Good, Bad, or Indifferent?" (Denis P. Doyle); (4) "Mythology and the American System of Education" (David C. Berliner); (5) "What's In? What's Out? American Education in the Nineties" (John Murphy); (6) "American Public Education: The Relevance of Choice" (Nathan Glazer); (7) "From Tinkering to True Reform" (Keith Geiger); (8) "The Task Before Us" (Albert Shanker); (9) "Quickening the Pace: The Need for Faster Improvement in Public Education" (Ted Sanders); (10) "Perfect Policies and Imperfect People: What Happens When They Collide?" (Kati Haycock); (11) "Keeping Our Promise to America's Children: A Standards-Based Vision for School Reform" (Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.); (12) "A Case Study in Systemic Reconstruction: The Struggle to Transform the Schools in Springfield, Massachusetts" (Peter J. Negroni); (13) "The Butterfly Effect--Small Changes with Big Consequences: Challenges for Public Education" (Sally B. Kilgore); (14) "Reclaiming American Indian Education" (Norbert S. Hill, Jr.); and (15) "Revitalizing America's Public Schools Through Systemic Change" (Gene R. Carter). Part 2 contains the keynote address by Harold Hodgkinson; a summary of what's right and what's wrong with America's educational vision; a summary of discussion session; group summaries of the plenary session; information on the Clinton Administration, the 103rd Congress, and education; and the principal conference themes and participants. (LMI)